



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Call and in person, Ketchum City Hall, Ketchum**

The Mountain Rides Transportation Authority's Board of Directors met in a Regular Meeting in person and on a conference call.

**PRESENT:** Chair Melody Mattson (at-large), Vice-chair Tom Blanchard (Bellevue), Secretary Rick Webking (Sun Valley), Kathleen Kristenson (Blaine County), Kristin Derrig (Ketchum), Peter Hendricks (Sun Valley), Neil Bradshaw (Ketchum)

**NOT PRESENT:** Martha Burke (Hailey)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mountain Rides Executive Director, Wally Morgus  
Mountain Rides Director, Finance & Administration, Tucker Van Law  
Mountain Rides Director, Assets & Planning, Ben Varner  
Mountain Rides Director, Transit Operations, Kim MacPherson  
Mountain Rides Admin Coordinator, Jerry Garcia  
Mountain Rides Manager, Mobility Programs and Resilience, Cece Osborn  
Emily Jones, *Idaho Mountain Express*  
Juan Martinez, Ex-officio board Member, City of Hailey

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Melody Mattson called to order the meeting of Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 1:03 pm via conference call and in person at the Ketchum City Hall. Secretary Rick Webking called roll and determined that a quorum was present.

**2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD MEMBERS, and STAFF**

There was none

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (incl. questions from Press)**

There was none.

**4. Consent Calendar items**

- a. Approve: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, December 15, 2021.
- b. Receive/file: Performance Dashboard report for December 2021.
- c. Receive/file: October & November Financial Statements and Bills Paid.
- d. Receive/file: Minutes of Finance & Performance Committee Meeting, January 5, 2022

- e. Receive/file: Reports from Director, Assets & Planning; Director, Transit Operations; Director, Finance & Administration; Manager, Transit Operations; Manager, Mobility Programs & Resiliency; Executive Director

**Neil Bradshaw moved to approve, receive, file, and adopt the Consent Agenda. Kathleen Kristenson seconded. The motion passed.**

**5. ACTION ITEM:**

*Approve Purchase of seven (7) Battery Electric Buses & Related Charging Infrastructure.*

Wally Morgus stated that they are bringing forward the purchase order for seven battery-electric buses and one charging station. It was something that they initiated last fall, but it was put on hold. All outstanding issues, challenges, and questions that put the purchase on hold have been resolved.

Neil Bradshaw said it is fantastic, six million towards these buses is a huge achievement for the Mountain Rides team, and he is 110 percent all-in on this.

Peter Hendricks seconded Neil's great feelings.

Tom Blanchard agreed with Neil and Peter.

Neil Bradshaw asked when the buses would be in operation?

Wally Morgus responded that the buses would start arriving two per week starting the first week of September, having all seven by the end of September. Wally thinks all the buses might be in service by mid-October if they hit that delivery schedule.

Peter Hendricks suggested scheduling a parade of electric buses to announce the arrival of the electric buses.

**Kristin Derrig moved to approve the purchases of seven battery-electric buses and related charging infrastructure; authorize the Executive Director to execute the Purchase Orders for same; and authorize the Executive Director, subsequent to the submittal of the Purchase Orders, to approve expenditures of up to \$60,000 above and beyond those specified in the Purchase Orders for items appurtenant to the purchases. Neil Bradshaw seconded. The motion passed.**

**8. DISCUSSION ITEM:**

*Items of Interest to the Board*

Peter Hendricks said he is disturbed by the comments regarding the late-night blue route problems on Sunday. Peter asked if anything had been initiated to deal with it, and if not, are police forces ready?

Kim MacPherson responded that it is now Latin night at Whiskey's on Sunday nights. MRTA is experiencing large loads at 1:30 am at Wells Fargo. The drivers stop at Backwoods to assess the situation and call the police or 911 if necessary. This past Sunday, only about ten people were standing at Wells Fargo, and when the bus pulled up, about 50 people came out of the woodwork and charged the bus. It was a different driver than usual, and he was very nervous. The driver sent MRTA staff an email the following day saying it was a very dangerous situation. Kim said she talked to one of the sheriffs, Andrew Schiers, who works for the Ketchum Police Department, and he assured her that KPD would try to have someone at Wells Fargo to help. Wally Morgus said MRTA is going back to the protocols they had in place about three years ago. Rather than relying on a phone call from the driver, Wally asked the Ketchum police to be near the Wells Fargo stop at 1:30 am.

Kim also said that she would let Sun Valley Company know what is happening and try to get them involved and see if Sun Valley Company has a shuttle bus that can help.

Kristin Derrig suggested putting up some memos for the Sun Valley employees, letting them know that they should think about taking the earlier bus if not everyone fits in the bus.

Kim responded that posters had been posted in English and Spanish and let HR know what they are dealing with. Also, the driver will try to take a video Sunday night to show people what is going on.

Peter Hendricks suggested having the police wait at the next stop or do a drive-by to help calm people down.

Neil Bradshaw said he would mention the situation to the chief.

Wally said that if the driver did not have police support three years ago, he avoided the Wells Fargo stop.

Kristin Derrig said Sun Valley Co. needs to help its employees. It is not fair to take the bus service away because it's dominated by that group (Sun Valley Employees).

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Tom Blanchard moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:21 pm. Neil Bradshaw seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

  
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Chair Melody Mattson